

REMARKS

Claim Objections

Claims 14, 15, 18-21, 31, 33, 34, 36, and 37 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claims 14, 18, 21, 31, and 37 have been cancelled. Claims 15, 19-20, 33, 34, and 36 have been amended such that they further limit the claims from which they depend. Applicant respectfully requests that Examiner remove his objections to claims 15, 19-20, 33, 34, and 36.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 35-37 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner stated that "applicant has identified possible "sM" metals as those that applicant had originally classified as "pM" metals." Claims 35-36 have been amended to not identify "sM" metals as those originally classified as "pM" metals. Claim 37 has been cancelled. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that claims 35-36 satisfy the written description requirement and are now in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 14, 15, 18-21, 31, 33, 34, 36, and 37 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 14, 18, 21, 31, and 37 have been cancelled.

Claims 15, 19, 33, and 34

Claims 15, 19, 33, and 34 have been amended to remove the combination of any individual primary metal with the primary notation “pM.” Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the claims satisfy the requirement for definiteness and are in condition for allowance.

Claim 20

The Examiner has rejected claim 20 as indefinite and states “cobalt is not among the permissible choices for “pM.”” Claim 20 has been amended to remove cobalt. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that claim 20 satisfies the requirement of definiteness and is in condition for allowance.

Claims 36

The Examiner has rejected claim 36 as indefinite and states “it is unclear what compositions are encompassed that include a specific “sM” metal, such as, “sMCoCrB.”” Claim 36 has been amended to remove the combination of any individual secondary metal with the secondary notation “sM.” Applicant therefore respectfully submits that claim 36 satisfies the requirement for definiteness and is in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Examiner has rejected claims 32 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Inoue et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,717,189). In claims 32 and 34, Applicant claims an electroless plating structure having a composition comprising Boron and Phosphorus. It is Applicant’s understanding that *Inoue* fails to disclose an electroless plating structure having a composition comprising both Boron and Phosphorus.

It is Applicant's understanding that *Inoue* discloses a protective film composed of an alloy film that is produced through electroless plating (*Inoue*, Col. 4, lines 44-49). *Inoue* discloses that, "alloys containing boran or phosphor are usable insofar as they contain no alkali metal." (*Inoue*, Col. 6, lines 11-14). Therefore, *Inoue* fails to teach an electroless alloy that has Boron and Phosphorus.

Regarding claim 32, the primary metal may be cobalt. Regarding claim 35, cobalt is a compositional ingredient. It is Applicant's understanding that *Inoue* fails to disclose an electroless plating structure having a composition comprising Cobalt, Boron, and Phosphorus. Applicant therefore submits that claims 32 and 35 are patentable over *Inoue* and respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 13, 16 and 17 contain allowable subject matter, and that claims dependent on claim 13 may be allowable if rewritten to be properly further limiting and definite. Claims 13, 16, and 17 have been amended to correct certain typographical errors. Claim 13 has been additionally amended to remove the reference to "metal-six" "(M6)" from the preamble. In view of these amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims remain in condition for allowance.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), applicant(s) hereby request and authorize the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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